Today's News - May 30, 2006

We're back -- with so much catching up to do! -- ArcSpace takes us to Tbilisi where dance studios are choreographed by a river. -- London's Olympics 2012 plans: smokescreens, propaganda, and public skepticism. -- The new urbanist architecture critics love to hate, but Gulf Coast communities embrace. -- Casino designs for Philadelphia's Delaware waterfront mostly "nondescript boxes" - except (perhaps) one. -- Prefab is not all it's cut out to be. -- In New York, there's nothing pianissimo about Piano, and two takes on the city's newest skyscrapers. -- Move over China: Miami is becoming the new "idea lab" for starchitects. -- Target targets D.C. - and wins (and so does the neighborhood). -- New JetBlue terminal will have passengers dancing. -- A "sprawling" new arts center for Orlando. -- A clean, unassuming geometry for new Museum of Contemporary Art/Denver. -- A major overhaul for Israel Museum. -- The play's the thing for theater designer. -- Millennium Park as Chicago's new town square.

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Competition winner: Henning Larsens Tegnestue: Georgian Choreographic Centre, Tbilisi, Georgia

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Where are the Olympic building plans heading? There is a growing scepticism in this country about architecture for the public...it is still far from clear who exactly is going to design the stadium, or if, indeed, it will look anything like the propaganda. By Deyan Sudjic -- Foreign Office Architects; Allies and Morrison; EDAW; Zaha Hadid- Observer (UK)

An Architect With Plans for a New Gulf Coast: He's the man architecture critics love to hate: Andrés Duany, charismatic prophet of the New Urbanism... -- Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company; Reed Kroloff; Peter A. Calthorpe- New York Times

Pinnacle could be top slots design: The more you stare at the softly lit renderings of four casinos proposed for Philadelphia's Delaware waterfront, the more the designs start to run together...If anyone should be able to help...slots parlors break out of their nondescript boxes, it's Jerde. By Inga Saffron [image]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Glossing over the problem with prefab? Not everyone agrees that this phenomenon is a also good thing for architecture...Two cautions stand out...cost [and] fit of structure to landscape. By John Bentley Mays -- Graham Smith/Altius Architecture- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Molto Piano: Three new designs [Morgan Library; Whitney Museum; NY Times HQ] demonstrate Renzo Piano's brilliance and his limitations. By Paul Goldberger -- FXFOWLE Architects- New Yorker

The Manhattanville Project: The dispute over Renzo Piano's piazza encapsulates a larger conflict Columbia University is now having with its neighbors to the north...One man's urban improvement, it seems, is another man's urban debacle.- New York Times Magazine

Not a single condo in sight: Hearst headquarters and 7 World Trade Center symbolize an older idea of skyscraper as a place of commerce. They are two of the best-looking dinosaurs you'll ever see. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Norman Foster/Foster and Partners; David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill- Los Angeles Times

NY tower an inspiration to think green: Skyscrapers are nothing new in this city, but the Hearst Tower is something quite different...as an icon, a landmark...feels awkward, almost ungainly. Its best features are inside... By Christopher Hume -- Foster and Partners; Adamson Associates- Toronto Star

Miami Is All About Its Celebrity Architects: Just when it seemed that the traditional Miami aesthetic had made a national comeback...a new chapter has opened for this city's architecture. The Big Architects are in town. -- Enrique Norten; Frank Gehry; Herzog & de Meuron; Cesar Pelli; Richard Meier; Bernard Tschumi; Duany Plater-Zyberk; Arquitectonica; Chad Oppenheim [images]- New York Times

Target's Target: DC USA: Big-box retail fills a gap as a Harlem-based developer and the public sector collude. -- Bower Lewis Thrower Architects [images]- The Slatin Report

At the New JetBlue Terminal, Passengers May Pirouette to Gate 3: The architect David Rockwell and the choreographer Jerry Mitchell collaborate to streamline the airport experience. -- Gensler [audio slide show]- New York Times

Arts-center plan takes a bow: Advocates envision a [$376 million] sprawling downtown Orlando complex with 3 performance halls. -- Barton Myers Associates- Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

Lines light space: An early peek at the new home of the Museum of Contemporary Art/Denver...a 26,000-square-foot building with a clean and, in many ways, unassuming exterior geometry. By Kyle MacMillan -- David Adjaye [image]- Denver Post

Israel Museum gets biggest overhaul in its 40-year history -- Alfred Mansfeld; Dora Gad; Armand Bartos/Frederick Kiesler; Isamu Noguchi (1965); James Carpenter; Efrat-Kowalsky Architects; Lerman Architects- The Art Newspaper

Keeping the design out of the spotlight: John Fisher and company make performance

spaces plotted to keep audiences riveted on the stage, not the venues' lines. -- John Sergio Fisher & Associates (JSFA) [images]- Los Angeles Times

How Millennium Park created a unique nexus of culture: ...has become our town square, our meeting place, our focal point for the arts...in ways that perhaps even its planners hadn't anticipated... -- Gehry; Plensa; Kapoor [images]- Chicago Tribune

So Tall: International High-Rise Prize 2006 Goes to Barcelona's Torre Agbar by Jean Nouvel -- Commendations to: Calatrava; Delugan Meissl Architects; mecanoo architecten; and Riken Yamamoto & Field Shop [images]- ArchNewsNow

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